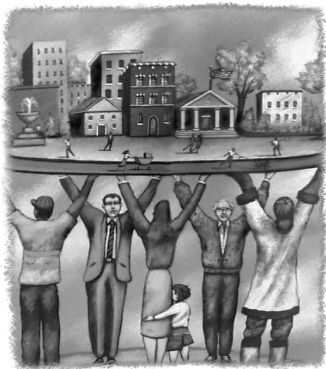




Introducing Lynchburg's First Citizens Academy

During the past several years, the City of Lynchburg has worked to make it easier for citizens to be better informed and more involved in the day-to-day business and operation of our government. Our City Council often refers to citizens and their neighborhoods as the backbone of our community. This involvement is vital for us to maintain a healthy community that continues to meet the needs of its citizens. In our effort to solicit even more citizen participation, we have developed the "Citizens Academy."

The "Citizens Academy" is designed to give participants an insight into the operation of the various departments of the government. The goal of the academy is to have better informed citizens who will bring their specialized knowledge of how city government works back to their respective neighborhoods.



The first Citizens Academy is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 11, 2003, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will continue every Thursday evening for nine weeks. An optional tour will be held on a Saturday. We encourage you to take part in this Academy. To register for the upcoming session, please call 856-CITY (2489) or use the simple form on the City's web-site at www.lynchburgva.gov. Forms are also available at the City Hall Information Desk, 900 Church Street, and the Lynchburg Public Library at 2315 Memorial Avenue. The Academy is free and open to Lynchburg residents. Seating is limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply early. For more information contact 856-CITY (2489). Once your registration information has been received and processed you will receive a complete schedule for the Fall 2003 session.

City Starts New Tax Collection Program

The City of Lynchburg is implementing a new program for the collection of delinquent personal property taxes. The City will take advantage of a program offered through the Division of Motor Vehicles called a "DMV Stop."

A DMV Stop works this way:

- The City reviews all delinquent personal property tax accounts to determine whether or not payment has been made.
- If no payment has been made, the delinquent tax payer will receive a letter indicating that if payment is not made within 30 days of receipt of the letter, DMV will be authorized to withhold registration for vehicles until the taxes are paid in full.
- The taxpayer will also have to pay a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the enforcement action.

- Once a DMV Stop is placed on the account, it will not be removed until the delinquent amount is paid in full.

According to Susan Hargis, Revenue Collections Coordinator with the City's department of Financial Services, nine of the 15 Virginia First Cities already use DMV Stops to collect delinquent personal property taxes.

"The majority of our citizens pay their taxes, but we have a number of citizens that do not. It wouldn't be fair to those that do the right thing if we did not use whatever methods available to us to try to collect from the delinquent taxpayers," said Hargis.

Anyone having questions about personal property taxes or DMV Stops should contact Billings and Collections at 847-1470.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open House at the Landfill!



The Waste Management Division of Public Works cordially invites you to attend an **Open House, Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

This event will feature Lynchburg's new trash collection system and "Bart the Cart."

- Activities include tours, children's games and activities, equipment demonstrations
- Free recycling boxes and other give-aways
- Refreshments and more
- The "Bart the Cart" postcard prize drawing will be held during the Open House

Watch for more information or visit our website at www.lynchburgva.gov.

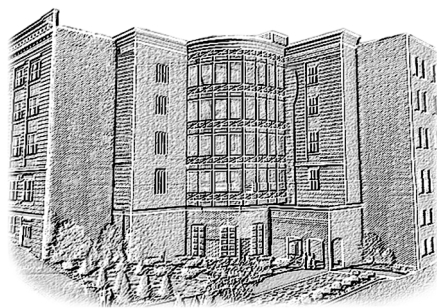
It's a Block Party!

Join the News and Advance, Lynch's Landing, and the City of Lynchburg as we "Shout About Downtown" on **Saturday, October 4, 2:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.** Bring the family for fun activities from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.—shop at the downtown merchants, see the Big Dig at 9th and Main, enjoy food, music, and more. The party doesn't end at 6:00 p.m.—stay for more fun. Look for more information soon and come support downtown.

"If its happening, it's happening downtown."

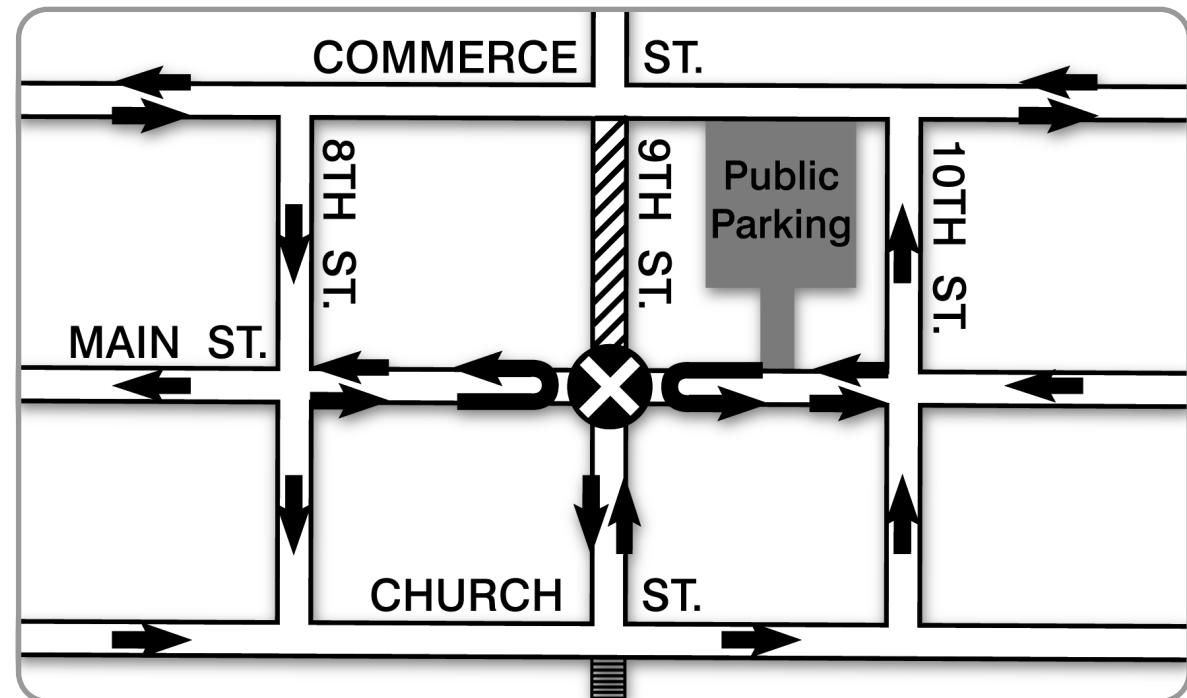


CITY OF
LYNCHBURG
&
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES



*You are cordially invited to attend the
Dedication Ceremony & Open House
for the Human Services building on
Monday, August 25 at 10:00 a.m.
99 Ninth Street*

Downtown Revitalization Continues



Temporary Street Closures - Expect Lane Direction Changes

Ninth Street between Commerce and Main remains closed while work continues on the Ninth Street Improvement Project. Currently, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) construction work is being conducted on Ninth Street. The streetscape portion of the project will begin soon. The intersection of Ninth and Main Streets is expected to close in early September for up to 42 days. During the closure of the intersection, the traffic pattern will change with portions of Main Street becoming two-way (please see the map above).

Streetscape improvements on the lower end of Ninth Street are nearing completion. The area between Commerce and Jefferson Streets is now complete with slate and brick sidewalks and side-street parking and the first layer of asphalt is in place.

Monument Terrace Restoration Project

The Monument Terrace restoration project is progressing on schedule. The trees and other landscape plantings were removed at the onset of the project and excavation work is ongoing. Monument Terrace is scheduled to reopen in May 2004.

Monument Terrace is closed to pedestrians during construction. In order to gain access to the Clerk's Office, temporary steps are located on the east side of the Circuit Court building. All other pedestrian traffic crossing between Main Street and Church Street should use the steps located on Eighth Street or Tenth Street, or use the City's public elevator located on the west side of the Circuit Court building. Please note that the elevator is operational only between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Free GLTC Trolley service is also available for the Downtown area.

Know the Facts: West Nile Virus

You have probably read recent news stories about the West Nile virus. Several dead birds found in the City of Lynchburg have tested positive for the virus. According to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in areas where West Nile virus has been detected only a small proportion of mosquitoes are likely to be infected. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not become sick and only one in 200 people who are infected will become seriously ill. It's important that you know the facts.



Information found on the VDH website indicates that of the birds tested in Lynchburg only 7 have tested positive. There have been no reports of human cases. The public can help state officials monitor for West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne viruses by reporting all dead birds to their local health department. The Lynchburg Health Department is located at 1900 Thompson Drive and may be reached by telephone at 947-6777.

The local health department will decide whether to have the bird submitted for laboratory testing. Only selected crows, blue jays and raptors (i.e., hawks, falcons or owls) will be tested for mosquito-borne viruses, because they are the best early signs of virus activity in an area.

Reporting all dead birds is important. The state will be compiling data on sightings throughout Virginia to see if the numbers have any association with future positive findings. After 5-10 birds have been identified as positive for West Nile virus in a given area, no additional birds will be tested. Each locality will determine the exact number to be tested in an area.

Reporting dead birds immediately is essential, since testing must be conducted only on birds that have died within the past 24 hours. Sunken eyes and the presence of fly larvae (maggots) are good indicators that the bird has been dead too long.

The health department may advise you to collect and preserve the bird. Do not handle dead birds with your bare hands. Wear gloves or use a plastic bag turned inside out to pick up the bird. Place the bird in a plastic bag and tie the bag shut. Then place the bird in a second bag and tie the second bag shut. Place the double-bagged bird in a sturdy, waterproof container with freezer-packs.

West Nile virus can be prevented by controlling the mosquito population and protecting against mosquito bites.

- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- If possible, stay indoors when mosquitoes are biting.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and less than 10 percent for children.

The Virginia Department of Health also recommends the following to reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home:

- Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, boats, buckets and toys.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps and flat roofs.
- Do not allow water to collect in your garbage can.